



ARTICLE ROUND UP



The American Center Ho Chi Minh City is pleased to offer you **Article Round Up**, a monthly current awareness publication of the American Center, U.S. Consulate General, Public Affairs Section, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It offers abstracts of approximately 25 current articles and policy briefs from leading American journals. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

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JULY 2012

SPOTLIGHT: AMERICAN SPIRIT

1. "Guide to Historic Sites in Maryland"

American Heritage, Winter/Spring 2012, 6 pages.

Focusing on western and southern Maryland and the city of Baltimore, this guide covers historic locations such as the U.S. Naval Academy, the Maryland State House, the Fort McHenry National Monument, and the Clara Barton National Historic Site.

2. "The Transgender Athlete"

Pablo S. Torre and David Epstein. **Sports Illustrated**, May 28, 2012, 8 pages.

Playing fields have long been segregated on the basis of sex. But what happens to the athletes whose physiology doesn't match their gender identity? Against whom do they compete? What obstacles do they face? And how are they being treated by sports' governing bodies? The authors explore transgender athletes and rules on the eligibility of transgender athletes in both men's and women's sports.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2012

3. "Have President Obama's Re-Election Prospects Brightened?"

[Charles E. Cook](#). **Washington Quarterly**, Spring 2012, 6 pages.

Have the 2012 U.S. elections reached an inflection point? The author, a political analyst for NBC News, discusses the direction of the U.S. presidential race, and whether it will be shifted from an uphill battle for President Obama to a very close fight and more evenly-balanced contest.

4. "A Real Race"

[Ramesh Ponnuru](#). **National Review**, June 25, 2012, 2 pages.

The author, President of the John Locke Foundation, discusses why U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is poised to give President Barack Obama a stern challenge in the November, 2012 election.

5. "The Battleground"

[Alec MacGillis](#). **The New Republic**, June 7, 2012, 5 pages.

The author, a senior editor at *The New Republic*, explores political events in the swing state of Ohio from

2011-2012 and their implications for the election in November 2012, focusing on the case of Senate Bill SB5, which restricts the collective-bargaining rights of public sector employees.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

6. "Rethinking Hegemony: Uneven Development, Historical Blocs, and the World Economic Crisis"

[Richard Saull](#). *International Studies Quarterly*, June 2012, 16 pages.

The author analyzes the 2008–2009 economic crisis with regard to longer-term developmental trends in the global economy centered on the Sino–U.S. economic relationship and the issue of whether or not the crisis is indicative of a decline in the material basis of American hegemony.

7. "The Dollar and Its Discontents"

[Olivier Jeanne](#). *PIIE Working Paper 12-10*, May 2012, 26 pages.

Has the U.S. dollar delivered the benefit that the rest of the world is expecting from its holdings of international liquidity? The author, a professor of economics at the Johns Hopkins University, examines whether U.S. dollar debt remains liquid, safe and abundant enough to support the role of the dollar as the main reserve currency and its performance as a store of value.

8. "Toward a Global Monetary Order"

[Gerald P. O'Driscoll Jr.](#) *Cato Journal*, Spring/Summer 2012, 10 pages.

The author, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, examines a global monetary system and monetary nationalism, focusing on the classical gold standard and the restoration of the gold commodity standard.

THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA

9. "The Resurgence of Asia"

[Meghnad Desai](#). *Asian Affairs*, March 2012, 11 pages.

Today, dynamic Asia is modernizing very quickly. Is it sustainable? The author discusses the resurgence of different parts of Asia, which seem to continue at different paces, and examines the prospects and the transformation of the region's nature.

10. "Asia in the Balance: Transforming US Military Strategy in Asia"

[Thomas Mahnken](#), et al. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*, June 2012, 32 pages.

The authors explore long-standing U.S. dominance in the Asia-Pacific as well as the question of how to effectively maintain its position in the region. They offer fundamental strategic alternatives in order to match its ends and its means in an increasingly turbulent environment.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

11. "Scoring Obama's Foreign Policy: A Progressive Pragmatist Tries to Bend History"

[Martin S. Indyk](#), et al. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012, 15 pages.

Has the United States really declined during the Obama administration as Republican opponents have argued? Does President Obama have a strategy at all or merely responds to events? The authors examine President Barack Obama's foreign policy and national security issues from 2009-2012.

SOCIAL MEDIA

12. "Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?"

[Stephen Marche](#). *The Atlantic*, May 2012, 8 pages.

The author, a novelist, discusses the prevalence of online social networks such as Facebook in the United States and their impact on the emotional, psychological, and physical health of their users, focusing on the increase of users' loneliness.

13. "Second Chance"

[Caitlin Johnston](#). *American Journalism Review*, April/May 2012, 8 pages.

The author, an editorial assistant at *American Journalism Review*, discusses the future of traditional news outlets that stumbled at the onset of the digital era and the advent of tablet computers, focusing on the impact of tablets on the news industry and the need for newspapers to modify content for tablet computers.

14. "Power of the iMob"

Andrew Marshall. *World Today*, April-May 2012, 6 pages.

The author, a media consultant and former journalist, analyzes the emergence of a new wave of organizations and the rise of dot-orgs as global players, mobilizing millions and changing social activism for a new digital age.

15. "Top-Level Domain Names"

[Wallace Koehler](#). *Searcher*, May 2012, 3 pages.

The author, Director of M.L.I.S. Program at Valdosta State University, discusses the expansion of the range of generic top-level domain names from the original seven to the many, and its implications for several different constituencies and information professionals.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

16. "Developing Symptoms: Noncommunicable Diseases Go Global"

[Thomas J. Bollyky](#). *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012, 11 pages.

The author, a senior fellow for Global Health, Economics, Development at the Council on Foreign Relations, analyzes the biggest health challenges confronting the developing world and the increase of noncommunicable diseases (NCDS) in developing countries.

17. "Bubbles from the Deep"

[Henrik Svensen](#). *Nature*, March 22, 2012, 3 pages.

The author, a senior researcher at the Centre for Physics of Geological Processes, discusses the greater influence that hydrates has on a warming world, now that ocean temperatures has risen high enough to melt methane-bearing gas hydrates.

18. "Sun Struck"

[Timothy Ferris](#). *National Geographic*, June 2012, 16 pages.

The author, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, discusses the effects of solar storms upon electrical systems and its potential to knock out power grids and digital technologies on Earth.

EDUCATION

19. "Grand Test Auto"

[Bill Tucker](#). *Washington Monthly*, May/June 2012, 5 pages.

The author, a managing director of Education Sector, explores stealth assessments that are embedded

into learning experiences in order to assess a student's skills and knowledge and how these assessments can be used to predict academic achievement.

20. "5 Higher Ed Tech Trends for 2012"

D.A. Barber. *Campus Technology*, January 9, 2012, 4 pages.

Higher education institutions are improving the learning experience through analytics and personalized learning environments, while reducing costs with digital resources and cloud technologies. But what are some other trends? The author, a freelance science and education journalist, discusses the top five trends in education innovation for 2012 and what's ahead for learners and educators.

Full text is currently available at: <http://goo.gl/g8E9z>

21. "The NMC Horizon Report: 2012 Higher Education Edition"

[Larry Johnson](#), et al. The New Media Consortium, 2012, 42 pages.

The report analyzes the impact of emerging technologies on learning, teaching, and creative inquiry in higher education, highlighting six emerging technologies that hold great promises in higher education, primary and secondary education, and museum education, as well as key trends and challenges expected to continue over the next 1-5 years.

Full text is currently available at: <http://goo.gl/57uv7> [PDF format; 556KB]

22. "The Single Most Important Experiment in Higher Education"

[Jordan Weissmann](#). *The Atlantic*, July 18, 2012, 3 pages.

With the rise of free online learning, will traditional universities come to an end? The author, an associate editor at *The Atlantic*, discusses Coursera, an innovative online education platform that makes interactive college classes available to the public free on the web, and its impact on the brick-and-mortar universities as main vehicles for higher education in long term future.

Full text is currently available at: <http://goo.gl/kvHsK>

23. "A Conversation with Bill Gates about the Future of Higher Education"

[Jeffrey R. Young](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 25, 2012, 11 pages.

What technologies will shape the future of higher education? Will tablet computers in the classroom really make a difference? An exclusive interview with Bill Gates, the Microsoft Founder and one of the single most powerful figures shaping higher education in the United States, about his vision for how colleges can be transformed through technology.

Full text is currently available at: <http://goo.gl/c2xlW>

LIBRARY TRENDS

24. "An Ebook Primer"

[Sue Polanka](#). *Library Journal*, April 15, 2012, Vol. 137 Issue 7, p42-44, 3p

The author, Head of Reference & Instruction at Wright State University Libraries, outlines how libraries can bring ebooks into their collections, and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of ebooks for libraries and the importance of getting community input to inform any shift to digital media.

25. "Next Generation Social Networks and Search"

[Greg R. Notess](#). *Online*. May/June 2012, 3 pages.

The author, a reference team leader at Montana State University, discusses the next generation social networking and search sites including Google Inc.'s Google+ and image-based social networks Pinterest and Tumblr, focusing on the key features of each site and their advantages and disadvantages from research perspectives.